

a1 (a) at least one laminating section, each of the at least one laminating section comprising an upper chamber and an under chamber wherein [both] the upper and under chambers are divided [with] by a diaphragm means;

(b) a heating stage located in the under chamber for heating the materials put on the heating stage [in the under chamber, which] wherein the heating stage is movable between an upward position and a downward position; and

(c) a supporting means [which can support] for supporting the materials in a position above and apart from the upper surface of the heating stage when the heating stage [locates] is located in its downward position.

2. (Amended) A laminating apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said supporting means [is] comprises at least one supporting rod[s] and the heating stage comprises at least one hole for each of the at least one supporting rod wherein the at least one supporting rod is [provided] placed [in] through the at least one hole[s] of the heating stage [to protrude] and protruding from the upper surface of the stage when the heating stage is located [locates] in [its] the downward position.

a2 5. (Amended) A laminating apparatus as set forth in claim 1, [wherein there is provided] further comprising a carrying means for carrying the materials into or from the laminating section.

6. (Amended) A laminating apparatus for laminating materials [to be laminated which] comprising:

(a) at least one laminating section, each of the at least one laminating section comprising an upper chamber and an under chamber wherein [both] the upper and under chambers are divided [with] by a diaphragm means;

a² (b) a heating stage located in the under chamber for heating the materials put on the heating stage [in the under chamber]; and

(c) a moving means for moving the materials between an upward position where the materials are supported above and apart from the upper surface of the heating stage and a processing position where the materials are put on the upper surface of the heating stage.

a³ 9. (Amended) A laminating apparatus as set forth in claim 6, [wherein is provided] further comprising a carrying means for carrying the materials into or from the laminating section.

Please add the following new claims:

a⁴ 10. (New) A laminating apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein the supporting means is stationary.

11. (New) A laminating apparatus as set forth in claim 6 wherein the heating stage is stationary.

12. (New) A method for laminating a material in a chamber comprising:
placing the material to be laminated in the chamber;
creating a vacuum in the chamber;
bringing the material into contact with the upper surface of a heat source after the creation of the vacuum;
heating the material; and
removing the material from contact with the upper surface of the heat source prior to removing the material from the chamber.

13. (New) The method as set forth in claim 12 wherein the bringing step comprises raising the heat source and the removing step comprises lowering the heat source.